## WASHINGTON.

CONGRESS PAIRLY AT WORK-THE PARDON-REFEAL BILL--MR. CHANDLER'S CHARGES-THE POWER OF NEWARD ON THE MEXICAN QUESTION-BUSINESS IN THE SUPRSME COURT-RISTORI AT THE WHITE

Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 5, 1866. The rejection by the Senate yesterday, of the House bill to repeal the act of 1862, enlarging the pardoning power of the President, has produced a most painful feeling among the Radical members of the House, together with the defeat of Mr. Sumper's effort to get nical objection. It has created an apprehension that the Senate may prove reluctant to follow the courageous lead of the House. In the latter case, it was Mr. Reverdy Johnson who obstructed the proposed act of justice. In the former, it was Mr. Fessenden of Maine, but earnest Sonators assure me that neither of these leaders will long be potent to retard the beneficent legislation which the Radical majority has resolved upon. That majority regress profoundly that at this outset of the session any maneuver should have brought ways.

during the closing hours of the last session, and was made the subject of a pocket veto—not being returned up to the time of adjournment. It will be pressed to a speedy vote and, if it can be, passed over the President's head, as it will undoubtedly be vetoed again.

The two Senators thus gained will be immediately called on to bein in gaverating the Colorado veto. The twe Senators thus gained will be immediately called on to belp in overriding the Colorado veto, which is still before the Senate. The bill to repeal the President's ammosty power was up to-day on a motion to refer. Mr. Chandler spoke against the reference, and in favor of immediate passage. He reiterated his charge that pardons were peddled on the streets by women of doubtful repute, and agreed to prove it by the records of the criminal courts of the District. He alluded, I suppose, to the trial of Lafayette C. Baker for assault and battery on one Mrs. Cobb, which occurred here last Summer. The bill was finally referred. Mr. Summer then introduced the reconstruction resolutions, of which he had given notice yesterday, and they were ordered to be printed. BenWade called up a resolution, offered by him last session, proposing to amend the Constitution by prohibiting the reflection of President or Vice-President of the United States, or of a Vice-President acting as President. He made a very temperate and judicious speech, not reflecting on the present Executive at all, but taking the ground that all men who had occupied the Presidential office in the last thirty or forty years had used Government patronage to secure reelection. The resolution was referred to the Judiciary Committee. The resolution to continue the Reconstruction Committee was concurred in, and a number of bills that had been lying on the table

a number of bills that had been lying on the table awaiting the formation of the Committees were appropriately referred.

It is reported by Mr. Samner's friends that he intends to bring up a resolution looking to the withdrawal of the France-Mexican question from the hands of the President and Mr. Seward, and placing it in those of Congress. Mr. Samner is Cliniman of the Senate Foreign Committee.

The House was in session only a couple of hours today. Immediately after the reading of the Journal, Mr. Williams of Penisylvania brought before the House and moved the reconsideration of his bill, reported at the last session of Congress, in relation to removals from office. He occupied the close attention of the House for over an hour in an elaborate and note legal argument, showing plainly that the Presiable legal argument, showing plainly that the Presi-dent had no power to reappoint to office those par-sons whose appointments had once been rejected by the Senate. When he had done, he Senate. When he had done, he mly congratulated for his forcible and able Schenck of Ohio and Wilson and Kasson of lowa gave notice of amendments to perfect the bill, which were ordered to be printed and laid over till te-morrow. Mr. Lawrence of Ohio reported a bill which were ordered to be primer and and over an temorrow. Mr. Lawrence of Ohio reported a bill from the Judiciary Committee looking to prospective treason trials. It provides that no man shall be disqualified from becoming a juror in a United States Court who has formed an opinion on a case from newspaper reports and ramors, provided the Court deems him otherwise competent. The bill was ordered to be printed and laid over. A bill which passed the Senate last session, giving the President discretionary power to appoint Pension agents, where they may be in his opinion necessary, was reported by Mr. Perham of Maine. There was general opposition to giving the President any more appointing powers, and both Mesars. Washburn and Farmsworth of Illinois, desired to have the bill so amended as to reject the recent appointments of Pension agents to be sent to the Senate for confirmation. Mr. Farnsworth stated that one of the most notorious Copperheads in Illinois had been appointed Pension agent. The bill was recommitted to the Committee.

It is the intention of the Committee of Ways and Means to bring forward one or two important financial measures at an early day. A few members of

The U. S. Claims Commission last month received 114 claims against the Government. Of this number, 25 have been allowed and 33 rejected. Among those not granted were claims from several Southern ches for damages occasioned by our troops during

Gov. Seward was at the Capitol to-day, and had a protracted interview with several leading Senators. It is said he is a good deal exercised about Mexican matters. One thing is almost certain, the Secretary was informed of the fact that neither the Senate nor the House Committees on Foreign Affairs are going to take any action one way or the other for the present. They are going to wait and see what the Emperor intends to do about the withdrawal of the French troops. Mr. Seward, it appears, was not con-sulted, and knew nothing about the language which the President employed in speaking of the conduct of Napoleon in not complying with the agreement to withdraw French troops, and it is said that Mr. Sew-ard has explained this to M. Montholon, the French

Minister, who took exception to language contained in the message.

There is a prospect of quite an animated session of the Supreme Court this Winter. The United States are parties in a number of important cases—many of them valuable prize cases on appeal. For the Government, of course, Mr. Stansbery, the Attorney-General, and Mr. Ashton, his assistant, appear, and they will be busily occupied through the session in seeing to the interests of the United States.

A case of great importance was presented to-day to the Court of Claims. It arises out of the sciences made more than a year age of Highwines manufactured by Jos. A. Shamberg, a distiller at Dubuque, Iowa. The Secretary of the Treasury compromised the suit for the forfeiture of the property seized, and

the suit for the forfeiture of the property seized, and permitted the release of the property upon the pay-ment of the taxes which had been fraudulently with-held. The seizing officer brought an action in the Court of Claims to recover a moiety of the sum so Dusheimer, and on the part of the Government by Mr. Ward, Assistant-Solicitor, and Mr. Norton, Solicitor

dent came in and cordially welcomed the great tragic queen. After a lively chat the President withdrew, and Ristori was conducted by the ladies over the conservatory, and shown the various rooms of the White

House and the surrounding grounds.

Commissioner Newton, of the Agricultural Bureau, who has been very sick with fever for the past months, rode out yesterday for the first time, and is rapidly recovering.

Commissioner of Internal Revenue Rollins returned

rom New-Hampshire this morning, accompanied by

elect from Nebraska, have arrived here. The former has brought with him the Constitution of the new State. L. M. Marynett, the Representative elect, will arrive shortly. It is ascertained that the popula Gen. Butler arrived in town this morning from the

The Committee on the subject of increase of clerks' alaries presented to-day to the Committee of Ways and Means a bill increasing salaries 33 per cent.

MPURTANT MEASURES AGREED UPON-MR. BAYMUND'S

descrition from the party, and quite a lively discussion on the matter was indulged in. The first tusiness in order was the report of the Committee of Nine appointed at the last caucus to determine upon a course of proceedings for Congress during its present exision. The Committee recommended, first, the appointment of a special contention of the content of the co

table by a vote of 38 Yeas to 36 Nays. The caucus then

WELCOME TO CONGRESS. THE DAY PROCESSION AND THE EVENING BANQUET.

New-York is distant from here about three-quarters of a lay by mail; three-quarters of a second by telegraph. yet settled to my satisfaction, is whether my loggard pen reaches your office. Vesterday's daily is as unsavory as last week's paneakes, and a newspaper letter in these high-pressure times is a glass of champagne; I doubt if mine carries its "bead" to New-York. But yesterday was a day fall of national significance, and the open sieve of the telegraph, which aspires only to catch the most bulky facts, has perhaps left some morsels that will pay for cleaning.

The "grand welcome" to Congress came nearer being an entire success than many of the friends of Congress anticipated. Some felt that such a demonstration would be rather theatrical; many more saw that it was entirely superfluous. The thought was a patriotic one, of course; but the attempt to emphasize the enthusiastic verdict of twenty millions of people, in a city where two-thirds are Rebel mourners and nine-tenths Johnsonians, was considered sublimely absurd. Several of the most prominent and jadicious i tembers of both Houses deprecated the movement and declined to participate in it. But the young men who had it in hand were not to be talked down; so the demonstration came on—and went off—yesterday, with much real interest to those who followed it from first to last—excepting, possibly, the projectors, who wake up this morning to find themselves \$1,000 behind!

Before II o'clock the avenues and streets leading City

D'Afrique of Baltimore, in a very picture-sque uniform bearing arms and flags, and many hundred civilians. The negroes of the capital seemed, by common consent, te make a holiday of it, as they do of their Emancipation Anniversary. They crowded the sidewalks, invaded the streets, and swarmed like flocks of noisy blackbirds upor all the balgonies and fences. It was a gala day. The men conducted taemselves with studied circumspection; the women dressed their gaindiget, the children were out in all the glory of yellow frocks and red feathers.

The Marine Band—the Dodworth Band of Washington—lad contemptuously refuned to leaft the procession because there were "niggers" in it, whereupon the "high gers" turned out three fall brass bands of their own, whose performance was highly creditable. They played all the patriotic and anti-Slavery airs with excellent taste. A large party had assembled in front of the White House, thinking that perhaps the credulous and obsequious darkeys would again pay their respects to His Accidency, but they were mistaken. The freedmen gave Pharaoh to opportunity to tell them how he loved them, and how he desired to play the rôic of Moses. They were doubtless watched, however, from an apper window, as they swung around the circle, by that great and good man who has been Alderman, and Assemblyman, and Congressman, and Tailor, and President, and the cup of whose archition is alleged to be full.

I may as well say here, what is not generally known, that Col. Hinton, President of the Republican Association here, andactously made a written request on all the breaks of Departments for permission for their clerks to join in the demonstration. He was somewhat surprised at Secretary McCulloch's giving his clerks a half-holiday for the purpose. Seward also responded favorably—after the procession had reached the Capitol' Browning refused his consent, on the ground that it was "a partisan demonstration," About forty Treasury clerks tuned out, lat only eleven had the courage to accompany the procession

cost with a new back-bone; some of the recalcitrants have fallen quietly into the traces as if they had always been docile in the pulling-gear; while all look and act as if a fresh inspiration had fallen on them from the skies. The spirit of this session will be Radicalism tempered with nonderships.

SENATE ... WASHINGTON, Dec. 5. 1866.

THE ADMISSION OF NEBRASKA.

Mr. WADE (Rep., Ohio) introduced a bill for the admission of Nebraska into the Union as a State. This all was passed by both Houses at the close of the last session of Congress, but was withheld by the President, and not being signed, did not become a law. On smetton of Mr. WADE the bill was ordered to lie upon the table for the present, until the amountement of the committees.

was in attributing to him remarks made by his colleague (Mr. Howe.)

I Nate by the Exporter—The mistake was not in the New-York Associated Free report, but in that of the begins Graig Association. I Mr. GRIM ES (Rieg., Lowra) and his was not to be deterred by a call for the Yens and Nays from insisting upon the enforcement of the rules of the Senate, unless there should be some more substantial reason for setting them aside than had been given by the Senator from Michigam. He did not know what necessity there was for passing the bill in such hot haste. The Senator from Michigan could not suppose that it would have a good effect upon the country to pass such a measure in a fit of temper, as it must be supposed, to pass at this early stage of the session. Nothing could be host by passing it over for a few days and having it printed.

Mr. CHAY DLEE said it was a notorious fact—as notorious as the records of the Court of law in this District—that pardons had been for sale around this town—for sale by women—by more than one woman. The records of your Courts will show this. Any Senator who desires to stop it, sesires the repeal of the cause, after who desires to stop it, sesires the repeal of the cause. This is a matter of public record—a matter that every man knows who has read the newspapers or read the records of the Courts, for I have it from one of the Judges of this District that this is the fact. No nation was ever so disgraced as this is by such an act.

Mr. HENDERSON (Rep., Mo.) said he voted to take this

selection designation of the Theory of the property of the pro

the administration of our country during recent years. I say all the Admadistrations—I do not wish to post out individually any one of them—I say, any one who has watched them will be convinced that it is not safe to put into the hands of any man such complations as these. Such temptations arise from the fact that he can like these powers to further his own ambition. There has rarely been a time, however, whe such a proposition could have been moved without seeming invidious, and I believe that this idea has been growing until everybody seems to understand that it needs correction. I hope. Sir, without going into the argument berely to suggest the great importance of a he measure—I look that the resolution will go to the Committee and be reported back at an early day. I have been for several years of the opinion that it doubt to pass—that this defect should be remedied. President Washington, even, thought so: President Mackson, and all your agricust statesmen from that time to this have seen this defect and wished it might be corrected. They have not however, found an opportunity when it was probable they could get the necessary vote to effect it. Such is the condition of parties, or such has been their condition in this dovernment that it was almost a hopeless task to engral this amendment upon the Constitution. There is now as opportunity, and I believe every man is sensible that the correction ought to be promptly applied. I hope, therefore, that the Judichary Committee will take time to censider this resolution. If it is not correct, and wants amendment, I hope they will apply the amendment, and at an early period return it to the Senate and fet us pass upon it.

The resolution was then referred. It provides for an amendment to the Constitution that the President shall be elected for four years, and shall not be cligible for reclection. In case of the death of the President will take time to censider this resolution.

The MESSAGE.

On motion of Mr. PESSENDEN (Rep. Ma.), the report of the Secretary of the Tr

Mr. GARFIELD (Rep., Ohio) salumitted an amendment, that any public officer who should pay or receive any moneys, and advise or confire at, or consert to the payment of any money s in violation of this act should be held guilty of a misdemeanor in office and on conviction thereby, by impendment or other-wise, be sentenced to removal from office, and should pay to the United States a sum equal to the dupount so paid or received. Mr. HALE (Rep., N. Y.) also others an amendment. The bill and amendments were extered to be printed and made a special order for to morrow.

THE REGHT TO CHALLENGE PEROES AERIOGED.

The SPEAKER proceeded, as the But business in order, to call committees for reports.

Mr. LAWRENCE (Rep., Ohio), from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill to amend the acty March 3, 18th, regulating proceedings in criminal cases. Exprovides that on the trial of any officiace on which the right to calleinge jurers now exists, the defendant shall be entitled to only four peremptory challenges, provided this shall not apply to tights for treases or capital offenses.

The bill was read three times and passed.

trial of any offense on which the right to capting parons now exists, the defendant shall be entitled to only four perempticy challenges, provided this shall not apply to take for treasen or capital offenses.

The bell was read three times and passed.

Mr. LAWRENCE (Ohio), from the same committee, reported a bill in reference to the qualifications of jurious in certain cases. The bill provides that on the trial of any person charged with treasen or with setting on foot, associant of certain cases. The bill provides that on the trial of any person charged with treasen or with setting on foot, associant of certain cases. The bill provides that on the trial of any person charged with treasen or with setting on foot, associant of certain cases. The bill provides that on the trial of a contract of the certain cases. The bill provide that on the committed a person shall not be disqualified from acting on the gary because he has expressed an opinion founded on newspaper reports, rumor or hearsay, and not on convention with witnesses of the transaction or hearing them testify, the jurior shall say that he feels able, notwithstanding uch opinion, to reader an impartial verdict on the law or evide. On motion of Mr. STEVENS, the bill was postponed at Tuesday next, and ordered printed.

Mr. LAWRENCE (Ohio), from the same Committee also reported a bill to protect the rights of action of all citizens. It provides that when a citizen of the United States, who always remained loyal thereto and did not voluntarily give and and encouragement to persons engaged in rebellion, shall bring an action to recover damages for injury to person or property, or the value thereof, no such action shall be defeated, or any set fense allowed, by virtue of the authority of the late secanded Confederate States or any State declared in rebellion. The bill was read three times and passed.

Mr. PERHAM (Rep. Mc.) from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, ruported back the Schate bill of last session te provide for the payment of pensions. It authorize